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Solzhenitsyn

Exiled Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his wife today denounced a Soviet campaign against their fund for political prisoners and charged that the Soviet authorities see charity as treason, Freedom House said.

A spokeswoman for the human rights and free enterprise watchdog group was quoting from a statement which she said Mrs. Solzhenitsyn issued in Russian.

Despite widespread hunger in the Soviet Union, "charitable activity in the USSR is treason against the government," it said.

After nine years of persecuting the Russian Social Fund for Aid to Prisoners, "... the Soviet authorities have now instigated a newspaper campaign with the false accusation that the fund operates on the money and at the beck and call of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) ....

"For the first time, (they) openly threaten the fund's USSR distributors with article 64, 'treason,' which is punishable by execution," she quoted from the statement.

The fund, using royalties from Solzhenitsyn's novel, "Gulag Archipelago," is under Swiss government jurisdiction and has no connection with any other Western organization, it said.